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REPORT

ON THE

FRONTIER AFFAIRS OF BURMA IN 1890-91.

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REPORT

ON THE

FRONTIER AFFAIRS OF BURMA IN 1890-91.

In the present report the history of the frontier affairs of Burma will be taken up from the close of the period dealt with in the report for 1889-90, *i.e.*, from the beginning of May 1890, and will be continued to the close of the operations of the dry season 1890-91. The affairs of the Shan States Proper, by which may be understood the States administered respectively by the Superintendents of the Northern and Southern Shan States, will be reviewed in separate reports. The present report deals with—

I.—The Chin Hills.

II.—The Shan States of Kale, Thaungdut, and Zingalein-Kanti, administered by the Commissioner of the Central Division.

III.—The Shan States of Wuntho and Momeik, administered by the Commissioner, Northern Division.

IV.—The outlying portions of the Bhamo district to the west of the Irrawaddy.

V.—The outlying portions of the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy.

I.—*The Chin Hills.*

2. During the year under report the Chin Hills were administered from three centres,—the northern tribes from Fort White, the central tribes from Haka, and the southern tribes from Yawdwin.

The northern tribes.

3. During the greater part of the year Captain F. M. Rundall, of the 1-4th Gurkhas, was in charge of the Northern Chin Hills as Political Officer at Fort White. The tribes under the control of Fort White are—

(*a*) the Siyins, whose villages are in the immediate vicinity of Fort White and whose country borders the Kale Valley;

(*b*) the Kanhaws, who occupy the country north of Fort White stretching from Malawun to Old Mwelpi;

(*c*) the Shinshinngoywa, whose villages lie south of the Siyin country on the east bank of the Nankathè;

(*d*) the Mobingyis, who are described as half Siyins and half Kanhaws, and whose villages lie to the west of the Siyins and between them and the Nankathè;

(*e*) the Ngwite and Latè, who occupy the hills between Mwelpi and Manipur; and

(*f*) the Haitsi Lope, who live on the eastern slope of the Letha range bordering the Kubo Valley.

At the beginning of the year only the Shinshinngoywas were really friendly to us. Notwithstanding the severe punishment which had been inflicted on the Siyins that tribe continued hostile; the Kanhaws and the Mobingyis, being further inland, would not submit, while the Siyins held out, and the Ngwite, Latè, and Haitsi Lope tribes had not yet been visited by our officers. The only Siyin village with which our relations were friendly was Sagyilaing, and the Sagyilaing Chiefs were not able to prevent their tribesmen from constantly cutting the telegraph wire and otherwise annoying our troops. The capture of two of the wire-cutters paved the way for better relations.

The Siyins were anxious to recover their friends and, after some negotiation, were induced to make formal submission, to promise the surrender of all Burman captives, to undertake to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 200, and to conduct themselves for the future in a friendly and peaceable manner. These promises were on the whole fairly well kept and, thanks no doubt in great measure to the patience and tact of Captain Rundall and Myoôk Maung Tun Win, our relations with the Siyins were by the end of the year on a very satisfactory footing. The example of the Siyins was soon followed by the Mobingyis, who made their submission on terms similar to those imposed on the Siyins, which terms they have since faithfully kept. The Kanhaws gave more trouble. Their principal village (Tiddim) had been burnt by our troops early in 1889 and from that date onwards we had had little communication with them. In October 1890 their head Chief died and a dispute arose as to the succession, some of the tribe favouring Hauchin Kup, the nephew of the late Chief, and others Yatwel. With Yatwel Captain Rundall succeeded in getting into communication, but shortly after a serious raid by Kanhaws on the Burman village of Pinthawa necessitated an expedition against the tribe. In the raid on Pinthawa eight persons had been killed and 12 taken into captivity. The terms imposed on the Kanhaws were the restoration of all captives and of the heads of the men murdered at Pinthawa, the submission of the tribe, the payment of a fine of Rs. 4,000 for the raid on Pinthawa, and an annual tribute of Rs. 300. These terms not having been complied with by the date fixed, the Kanhaws were, after full and repeated warnings, surrounded and attacked in their village of Tungzang. In the fight which ensued 12 of the Kanhaws were killed and 21 taken prisoners, including several Chiefs. The result was that the tribe surrendered, 39 captives were given up, and the fine and tribute were paid in full. The expedition, which consisted of 300 Rifles and two guns, then returned to Fort White. There has been no trouble since with the Kanhaw tribe. The manner in which this expedition was carried out reflects great credit on Captain Rundall. Some of the principal Chiefs captured at Tungzang were subsequently sent down to Rangoon, where they were much impressed by the wonders of civilization and the evidence they saw of the power of the white man. They have since been released and have returned to their hills, vowing never again to attempt to withstand the British arms. During Captain Rundall's absence in the Kanhaw country a raid was committed by the Nwengals, a large tribe occupying the hills west of the Nankathè, and owing a nominal allegiance to the Tashons. A meeting was accordingly arranged at Falam between the Political Officers of Fort White and Haka, and the Tashon Chiefs, at which the latter undertook to deliver up the culprits and to guarantee the future good behaviour of the Nwengals. It is doubtful whether the Tashons possess sufficient authority over the Nwengals to enforce their good behaviour, and it will probably be necessary to visit this tribe in force during next season's operations.

The old site at Fort White having been found unhealthy, the headquarters of the Political Officer and of the troops were removed to No. 5 Stockade, which is now known as Fort White, and which promises to be an excellent site. Some useful work was done during the year by the Madras Pioneers in opening out a road from Fort White to Falam, the headquarters of the Tashon tribe. This road when continued to Haka will form a useful means of communication between the headquarters of the two Political Officers.

The central tribes.

4. The tribes under the control of the Political Officer at Haka as at present known are—

(a) the Tashons, a large tribe having their headquarters at Falam, about half-way between Haka and Fort White;

(b) the Hakas, whose villages lie round about Haka and immediately south of the Tashon country;

(c) the Tlantlangs, to the west of the Hakas and between them and Fort Tregear;

(d) the Yokwas, to the south and east of the Hakas; and

(e) the independent Baungshè tribes, lying to the south of the Yokwas.

These tribes were administered throughout the year 1890 and in the early months of 1891 by Mr. D. Ross, Assistant Commissioner. On the 23rd March 1891 Mr. Ross was succeeded as Political Officer, Haka, by Mr. D. J. C. Macnabb, Assistant Commissioner. Up to the middle of November there was no serious disturbance. Mr. Ross succeeded in maintaining friendly relations with the various tribes, and he was able to contribute to the settlement of disputes of old standing between the Yokwas and Hakas and the Tashons and Hakas respectively. Throughout the year the Myittha valley was remarkably free from raids. In the few cases which occurred fines were inflicted and duly paid, and the captives carried off were restored. The Hakas, on the whole, behaved very well. With the Yokwas also no great fault can be found. The people of Yokwa itself carried the mails regularly throughout the year, and on two occasions, when the tribe had undoubted cause for complaint against our troops, they refrained from reprisals and submitted the matter to the decision of the Political Officer. Upon one occasion a shot was fired at one of our sentries at the Yokwa post and the sentry was wounded. The Political Officer inflicted a fine of Rs. 400 on the village, which was paid up in full. The conduct of the independent Baungshè villages was not so satisfactory, and the misconduct of the village of Thetta necessitated the sending of two expeditions for the subjection of the inhabitants. From the month of November onwards the Thettas adopted an attitude of open hostility to our troops and committed a series of outrages, culminating on the 21st December in the murder of Mr. Wetherell, Assistant Superintendent of Police, and the attempted murder of the Political Officer himself. In the beginning of January a small force under the command of Captain Carnegy and accompanied by Mr. Ross as Political Officer was sent to punish the village. In the attack Lieutenant James, R.E., and two Gurkha sepoys were killed. The force (140 men without guns) was found to be insufficient to carry the village by assault without heavy loss. A parley was accordingly arranged and the Thettas, having offered to submit, to pay a small fine for their past misconduct, to behave properly in future, and to pay an annual tribute to the Political Officer at Haka, these terms were agreed to and the troops withdrawn. It was felt that the results of this expedition were not satisfactory, and that our failure to take the village and impose our own terms must result in some loss of prestige among the Baungshè villages, several of which, moreover, had not yet been visited. Arrangements were accordingly at once made for a second expedition on a larger scale with the object of more thoroughly exploring the Baungshè country, of receiving the submission of the villages still unvisited, and of convincing the Thettas and their neighbours of our ability to coerce them when necessary. For this purpose two strong columns with guns were sent into the Baungshè country, the one from Haka on the north with Mr. Ross as Political Officer, and the other from Gangaw on the south with Mr. Macnabb. This second expedition was perfectly successful. The two columns met at Thetta, neither column having met with any opposition, and Mr. Macnabb's column having accepted the formal submission of several villages passed *en route*. The Thetta villagers received the troops in a friendly manner and paid up their fine in full. From Thetta an expedition was sent against Shurkwa, a large village on the Boinu, which had recently carried off a Burman near Gangaw and had threatened to resist our advance. The resistance did not amount to much. A few shots were fired on our men as they advanced, but the guns were got into action and three or four rounds had the effect of bringing the Chiefs out with offers of full submission. Eight slaves were surrendered, a suitable fine inflicted, and annual tribute agreed to. In the course of this expedition submission was also accepted of the villages of Paipa, Paizong, Tônwa, Lowrang, and Aiha. The force then returned to Haka. The objects of the expedition had been fully attained, and no trouble has since been given by the Baungshè tribes. With the Tashons our relations were friendly throughout the year, but the attitude of the Chiefs is not at present altogether satisfactory, and our hold over them not so firm as it ought to be. The meeting of the two Political Officers with the Falam Chiefs and the undertaking of the latter to keep the turbulent Nwengals in order have already been mentioned.

Towards the end of March Mr. Macnabb left Haka with a column of 100 men under the command of Lieutenant Mocatta to visit the Tlantlangs and meet a party from Fort Tregear at Tao. It had been hoped that the Political Officer at Fort Tregear would be able himself to meet Mr. Macnabb. This, however, could not be arranged and he sent his interpreter with letters instead. Towards the Tlantlangs, whose country it was necessary to traverse in order to reach Tao, Mr. Macnabb's intentions were entirely peaceful. The tribe had made formal surrender to General Symons in March 1890 and no opposition was expected from them. It was reported that they had been raiding on the Lushai side, and Mr. Macnabb's intention was to order them to abstain from raiding in future. The march to Tao was unopposed, but the Tlantlang Chiefs were not seen. They were reported to be propitiating their 'nats' and to be very drunk, so the interview was postponed for the return journey. It was afterwards ascertained that the Tlantlang Chiefs were in reality preparing to oppose the return march, and accordingly, in the neighbourhood of Hyrankan, the column was suddenly attacked in force by a large body of Chins, estimated at 700 or 800 men. The column fought its way with some difficulty to Tlantlang, losing five men killed and 10 wounded, Lieutenant Forbes being also wounded. At Tlantlang the column was met by reinforcements from Haka under Colonel Mainwaring, who had come out on receiving news of the intended attack on Mr. Macnabb's party. The loss inflicted upon the Chins was not precisely ascertained, but is believed to have been considerable. The column behaved admirably under very trying circumstances, and much credit is due to Mr. Macnabb and Lieutenant Mocatta for the manner in which the march was conducted. To punish the Tlantlangs for this unprovoked attack a fine of 50 guns and Rs. 2,500 was imposed, and five days were given to them to pay up the fine. The fine was not paid and arrangements were accordingly made for a punitive expedition. While these arrangements were in progress Yahywit (Jahoota), the head Chief of the Tlantlangs, came in to Haka. Yahywit explained that the attack had been carried out in opposition to his wishes by two of the other Chiefs, Lalway and Koikyay, the former of whom desired to revenge himself for having been arrested by Captain Rundall in the previous year. Yahywit showed an earnest desire for peace, and as it appeared that his statement that he had not been concerned in the attack was correct the Political Officer determined to accept his submission and abstain from destroying the Tlantlang villages on condition that Lalway and Koikyay should be given up, that their houses should be razed to the ground, and that the arms and moveable property of all those who were engaged in the attack on our column should be confiscated and given up. As an earnest of good faith Yahywit handed up 17 guns, six mythun, a large elephant tusk, and a number of brass vessels and gongs. Yahywit was then on the 20th April permitted to return to his village. As the two Chiefs were not given up a column consisting of 300 Rifles and two mountain guns started for Tlantlang on the 2nd May. It was found that Lalway and Koikyay had fled and that their houses had been destroyed as desired by the Political Officer. Yahywit was found to have to some extent re-established his authority and the villages of Tlantlang, Tlangrwa, Twalam, Tao, and Munlipi were reported ready to submit and to give up the guns demanded of them, while Hyrankan and Tungzan refused to do so. Ultimately Tlangrwa paid up 10 guns and Twalam eight, while Tungzang, Munlipi, and Tao sent in five guns between them, but were ordered to go back for more. Owing to the lateness of the season, and the fact that the transport available had been insufficient to convey more than four days' rations for the column, it was impossible for the Political Officer to visit and exact submission from the recalcitrant villages of Hyrankan and Tungzang. This will have to be done in the next open season. In the meanwhile it may be hoped that Yahywit, who has given up his eldest son to the Political Officer as a guarantee of good faith, may be able to re-establish his authority throughout the Tlantlang country and to induce all his villages to submit and pay in their fines without further bloodshed.

Next season's operations will have to be conducted on a considerable scale. Posts will probably have to be established at Falam to secure our communi-

dition with Fort White and improve our hold over the Tashons and their subordinate tribes, at Tao to enable the Haka Political Officer to join hands with Fort Tregear and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and at Shurkwa to overawe the turbulent villages of Baungshè Chins. Expeditions will have to be organized to visit the Tlantlang and Nwengal villages and insist on their submission and good behaviour. One or more permanent posts will be required between Fort White and Manipur. It may be hoped that the establishment of posts on the comparatively healthy heights of the Chin Hills will enable us to withdraw the troops from the Kubo and Kale valleys, where they suffer severely from fever and dysentery.

The tribute arrangements throughout the Chin Hills require revision. Hitherto lump-sums have been agreed on, which, owing to our limited knowledge of the tribes, have been somewhat arbitrarily fixed. In future the tribute will have to bear a fixed proportion to the number of houses in each tribe.

Some progress was made during the year in the matter of roads and communications. A mule-road was constructed from Haka to the Nankathè river, a distance of 40 miles on the Haka-Fort White road; work was commenced on the new road from Sihaung to Haka, and the Chin tracts from Rawvan to Thetta, from Thetta to Shurkwa, and from Haka to Pai were kept open and improved. The road from Kan to Haka was kept open by Chin labour and the postal service along this road was regularly maintained. It is a matter of importance that our officers working in the Chin Hills should acquire a knowledge of the languages of the tribes with whom they have to deal. Captain Rundall has compiled a grammar and vocabulary of the Siyin dialect, and Mr. Macnabb a similar volume for the dialect of the Hakas. These compilations will be printed and published, and will no doubt be very useful.

The southern tribes

5. The rude detached tribes to the south of the Chin country proper, consisting, so far as we know them, of Chinbôks, Chinbôns, and Yindus, are administered by the Subdivisional Officer of Yawdwin in the Pakôkku district. The Yawdwin frontier was undisturbed throughout 1890, but on the 6th January 1891 a large party of Chins from the village of Panchaung committed a serious raid on Yawdwin post, looting the house of the Assistant Superintendent of Police and carrying off his pony. The conduct of the garrison on this occasion has formed the subject of a military inquiry, the result of which has not yet been communicated to the Chief Commissioner. Further raids followed, in one of which five women were carried off near Saw and one man was murdered. It was evident that severe measures were necessary and the Yawdwin garrison being insufficient to carry them out, Captain Hastings was sent from Myingyan with 112 mounted infantry and 96 foot of the 4th Burma Battalion to effect the release of the captives and chastise the Chins. Lieutenant Tighe, Subdivisional Officer, accompanied the expedition as Civil Officer, and the operations were carried out with skill and vigour. The village of Panchaung, from which most of the raiding Chins came, was severely punished, all captives were recovered, and promises of future good behaviour were exacted. After the settlement of the Chinbôks some of the more southern tribes were visited and their tribute fixed. In one case our troops were fired on by the Chins. The offending village was attacked and some loss inflicted. The Chins then surrendered and took the oath of fealty to Government. Arrangements have now been made to deal direct with the Chin headmen on this frontier instead of through a Burmese intermediary as was formerly the practice. There has been no more trouble on this frontier. Next season arrangements will have to be made to explore the country west of Tilin and lying between the Baungshès on the north and the Chinbôks on the south. Little is known at present of this strip of country.

II.—*Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Central Division.*

Kale.

6. The Shan States so called administered by the Commissioner, Central Division, are Kale, Thaungdut, and Zingalein Kanti. The State of Kale contains a population of

about 11,000, of whom only 2,000 are Shans. In Burmese times it was occasionally administered as a Shan State under a Sawbwa, but more frequently as an integral part of the Burmese Kingdom under a Burmese Wun. Between the years 1862 and 1885 it was for 17 years under a Burmese Wun and for six years only under a Shan Sawbwa. At the time of the annexation it was under a Shan Sawbwa, and this arrangement has since been continued, the tribute of the State having been fixed at Rs. 19,000 annually. As a matter of fact this tribute has never been paid and the State has been misgoverned and the people oppressed and subjected to every kind of exaction by the Sawbwa and his agents. Moreover, it has now been proved beyond reasonable doubt that the Sawbwa has been thoroughly disloyal, that he has been aiding and supporting in the Chin Hills a pretender to the throne of Burma, and that he has recently been in communication with Wuntho and probably also with Manipur with a view to a general rising. These facts were ascertained shortly after the suppression of the Wuntho rebellion and at the time when the expedition was proceeding to Manipur. The Sawbwa was accordingly arrested and deported to Rangoon, the administration of the Kale Valley being entrusted to British Officers, pending the orders of the Government of India as to the future. Since the deportation of the Sawbwa there has been no disturbance of any sort in the valley, which has been well and carefully managed by Mr. C. E. Browne, Extra Assistant Commissioner. From its position on the highway to the Chin Hills and to Manipur it is of importance that Kale should be under thorough control and regular administration, and the best way to insure this will be to incorporate it with the Upper Chindwin district.

Thaungdut.

The condition of the small State of Thaungdut throughout the year has been satisfactory, and the Sawbwa has on several occasions proved his loyalty under trying circumstances. On one occasion he caused his own nephew, who was charged with murder and dacoity, to be arrested, and made him over to the Deputy Commissioner for trial. He was found guilty and sentenced to death; but in consideration of the Sawbwa's loyalty and good conduct this sentence was subsequently, at the Sawbwa's urgent request, commuted by the Chief Commissioner to one of transportation for life. At the time of the Wuntho outbreak, though his son is married to a daughter of the *ex*-Wuntho Sawbwa, and though every effort was made to induce him to join in the rebellion, Thaungdut remained loyal and applied for the assistance of troops to protect his State from the vengeance of the rebels whom he had refused to join. During the Manipur expedition a force of military police was sent to Thaungdut to render the Sawbwa any assistance that might be necessary. This force has since at the Sawbwa's suggestion been withdrawn, and the Sawbwa is now administering his State without assistance. He appears to be a popular ruler and pays his tribute with punctuality.

Zingalein Kanti.

Of Zingalein Kanti State but little is yet known. It pays a nominal tribute of Rs. 50 annually and gives no trouble. A good deal of tea is grown in the State and also opium, some of which finds its way into the Upper Chindwin district. Endeavours are now being made to put a stop to the illicit introduction of opium into Burma, and the Deputy Commissioner has been ordered to pay a visit to the State and learn more about it.

III.—*The Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Northern Division.*

7. The Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Northern Division, are Wuntho and Momeik. The State of Kantigyi, which lies on the Assam border to the north of the Kaku Kachin country, has not yet been brought under control.

Wuntho.

In last year's report it was stated that there was reason to hope that satisfactory relations would thenceforward be maintained with Wuntho, as the Sawbwa had been showing himself inclined to adopt a more becoming attitude by sending his wife and sons

to visit the Commissioner at Mandalay and by himself meeting the Deputy Commissioner at Wuntho town. For some time there was ground for thinking that this hope would not be disappointed.

The Sawbwa's wife, or Mahadevi as she is called according to Shan custom, came to Mandalay in June 1890, being hospitably received and entertained there and on the road. The Mahadevi was accompanied by several Wuntho officials and produced letters from the Sawbwa about various subjects. These were enquired into and the Mahadevi was informed what would be done in each matter, and a letter in answer was addressed to the Sawbwa accordingly. After further correspondence with the Deputy Commissioner a meeting was arranged between him and the Sawbwa on the 25th June at Wuntho, to which place the Sawbwa came from his residence at Pinlèbu. The meeting was of a satisfactory kind, and the several matters which had been brought forward in Mandalay were further discussed, some were settled, and in some further enquiry was promised. The Sawbwa had complained that no satisfaction had been made in a few cases in which Wuntho people had been injured in Katha, and in promising investigation the Commissioner pointed out in his letter to the Sawbwa that there were 11 outstanding cases in which offences had been committed by Wuntho men in Katha, and in which fines, amounting to Rs. 5,487, had been imposed, but not yet paid, and that there were 39 dacoits at large, whose surrender had vainly been asked for. The Sawbwa had asked for the remission of a fine of Rs. 5,000 imposed on the Banmauk circle for the serious raid on Kainggyi committed in the early part of 1890. In consideration of the reprisals inflicted at the time and of the Sawbwa's present attitude it was arranged that the fine should be reduced by half. About the same time the Sawbwa was credited by the Central division with having lately shown a desire to co-operate in the suppression of crime, which he had never exhibited before The surrender of Nga Kyaw at Kawlin and of Nga So Gyi and two of his principal followers at Kindat was due to the Sawbwa, who also had Nga Lu Gyi (son of Nga So Gyi) and Nga Kyò, another noted outlaw, put to death.

The Sawbwa agreed, at the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Katha, to remove the Pawmaing of Banmauk, who had displayed a hostile disposition to our officials, and to assist in the disarmament of border villages. The number of guns to be held in Wuntho had originally been fixed at 350. All in excess of that number ought long ago to have been surrendered. But in fact the Sawbwa had never complied with these orders, and no attempt had ever been made to press him. It had become the practice when dacoities were brought home to Wuntho people to call upon the Sawbwa to give up guns, as well as to pay fines. He never, however, delivered any guns, but he paid the fine on Banmauk and a considerable portion of the other outstanding fines. He also returned the amount of revenue assessable on the State for the current year at Rs 50,310 and paid the whole of it in. The year before the sum paid was only Rs. 43,326. In the earlier part of the year a party went into the Kilat hills, on the borders between Katha and Wuntho, in pursuit of Nga Hmat, and a post was established at Kainggyi to protect the frontier. Dacoities, however, continued to take place, though not nearly so frequently as in former times. Between April and June there were 15 dacoities and robberies, of which nine were ascribed to offshoots of Nga Hmat's band. One of these raids was severely punished by the civil police of Katha, who overtook the raiders and killed three of them, besides wounding others. Another successful affair was that in which the camp of the notorious dacoit, Lun Thu, was surprised, the leader killed, and the gang broken up. During the second half of the year there were 16 dacoities and robberies, most of which were in the neighbourhood of the border. The Sawbwa was pressed to act energetically for the suppression of this lawlessness, and his co-operation was demanded against Nga Hmat. He accordingly undertook to assist with a force of 150 men.

After various correspondence and negotiations a force of 100 military police and Karennis was sent from Katha in January 1891 to attack Nga Hmat in conjunction with the Sawbwa's troops. This expedition was under the command

of Lieutenant Stirling of the Katha Battalion, and Mr. Martini, District Superintendent of Police, went as Civil Officer. They reached Kainggyi before the middle of January, and after some communications with the Wuntho officials Nga Hmat and his band of 40 men came in and gave themselves up, the whole band having surrendered by the 19th of the month. Nga Hmat and his followers were placed in arrest and sent into Katha. When they were questioned about the attack on Kainggyi they declared that it was made under the orders of the old Sawbwa of Wuntho, Maung Shwe Tha, the present Sawbwa's father, who, living in Mansi, dominated the northern part of the district. He was angry because Kainggyi had formerly been attached to this part of Wuntho and had been separated at the time of the settlement, which fixed the Mèza as the boundary, and the people refused to move across the river and become subjects of Wuntho again.

It had been proposed that when the expedition against Nga Hmat was accomplished a part of the force employed should be detached to march through the valley of the Mèza towards its sources, where, at or near a place called Mangyaung, Nga Po Thein, some time Sawbwa of Mohnyin, who had become a rebel, was supposed to be lurking and collecting men for the purpose of giving trouble in Katha; and it so happened that the road to be taken passed through Mansi and not far from the residence of the old Sawbwa.

Correspondence had been carried on with the young Sawbwa about this expedition against Po Thein, in which he was requested to assist by sending officers and men and making arrangements along the road. The Sawbwa was reluctant, however, to assist, no doubt because that part of the country was under his father's authority rather than his own, and he knew he should be unable to exercise control over his father and his father's people, and he therefore suggested that the force should march not on the west of the Mèza as proposed but on the east. But the eastern side of the river was an impracticable route, and the Sawbwa had to be told that his plan would not do. About this time rumours began to rise of the intention of the old Sawbwa to resist any attempt to march through his country and of his blocking the roads. The ruling Sawbwa was called on for explanation and gave an unsatisfactory reply urging that the people would be frightened and disturbed by the proposed expedition. Further correspondence followed, the Sawbwa being required to assert his authority and keep the road clear and, if need be, come north himself and see that proper arrangements were made. Meanwhile the force at Kainggyi had moved to Banmauk on the west of the Mèza, and the Deputy Commissioner himself visited Banmauk on the 9th February. Next day he received a letter from the Sawbwa, who had come to Manyu, a place about 30 miles off, stating that Po Thein had left Mangyaung and fled out of reach; that his father too had gone away to a distance; that the reported stockades on the road were merely outposts meant to convey news of the advance of the column; and that under these circumstances there was no cause for the column to march north. At the same time he sent two of his officials to accompany the column. The Deputy Commissioner desired to defer to the Sawbwa's wishes, and made up his mind to give up the proposed march. He, however, considered it advisable to make sure that there had really been no obstructions placed on the road to oppose an advance. He therefore took 50 Rifles of the military police as an escort and, accompanied by the Wuntho officers, went on the 11th February to Peinhinga, 10 miles north-west of Banmauk. Thence he intended to return, but he first arranged to visit the site of an outpost ahead, which the Wuntho officials said had been removed. But the Wuntho officers decamped in the night, and next day men, who were sent forward, reported that there was a stockade with men in it right across the road. It was clear therefore that active preparations had been made to resist the advance of our men along the Mèza. The Deputy Commissioner returned to Banmauk on the 12th February, and on the way a shot was fired and armed men were seen gathering in the rear.

The Deputy Commissioner wrote to the Sawbwa calling on him to explain, to clear the road, to disperse armed gatherings, and to go to Mansi and assert his

authority. That night two or three shots were fired into the camp at Banmauk, and it became increasingly evident that the old Sawbwa was hostile and would oppose the appearance of any force in the north of Wuntho. The Deputy Commissioner started back to Katha, sending on messages representing the state of affairs, and asking for a strong force to overturn the old Sawbwa's power and assert our supremacy in the north of Wuntho. He also warned Kawlin in the south of the district and re-called the various parties of Engineers engaged on surveys for the railway between Shwebo and Katha.

Events now moved quickly, and it soon became clear that not only the old Sawbwa but his son, the actual ruler of the State, had been long making preparations for trying conclusions with British power. A considerable quantity of arms had been gradually accumulated in Wuntho, the Sawbwa's fortress at Pinlèbu had recently been enlarged and strengthened, correspondence with other Shan States had been going on, and there was a general state of readiness for hostilities if a good opportunity should present itself. It was thought that this opportunity had now come. It was imagined that our hands were full in Momeik, among the Kachin hills, the Chin hills, and elsewhere; and there was an idea that it would be easy at any time to induce China to embroil herself with us. When the force retired from Peinhinga it was fancied that our limit was reached and that the moment for striking a blow had arrived. Accordingly the camp at Banmauk was surrounded and attacked, and being an open one it was soon found to be an untenable position, and the column withdrew to Kainggyi. The whole country was immediately in a blaze. On the morning of the 13th February an attack, by about 100 men, was made on the post of Kyaukpintha on the road of communication between Kawlin and the river at Tigyaing. Some of the military police were surprised outside, and a sepoy was killed and the havildar wounded, but the post was securely held against the enemy. Word was sent to Kawlin, where information was also received of the approach of the enemy in strength with the intention of attacking the post the same night. The attack was actually made about 4 o'clock the next morning. The garrison had been unduly weakened by sending out escorts, and mounted men had even been spared for Kyaukpintha the same day. There were thus not more than 35 men left for duty. The enemy, some hundreds strong, made a sudden rush, got inside the stockade, which was not in good order, and set fire to the buildings. Firing went on from all sides, four men were killed, and the military police had to leave the stockade and assemble on the rice-plain beyond it till daylight, when they re-entered it. The Subdivisional Officer with his family went down the railway embankment under construction to the first station at Kyungôn, 9 miles off. Thence he returned to Kawlin in the morning, a reinforcement of 30 military police having already been met on the road before reaching Kyungôn. He came back again to collect more men along the railway line, and from the posts of Letpanda and Ukingyi, and hurry them forward.

Meanwhile a force of 100 men of the 20th Madras Infantry had been ordered from Tigyaing to relieve Kawlin. Troops, British and Native, and guns were despatched to Katha and Tigyaing by river, both from Mandalay and Bhamo, and began to pour in from the 17th February onwards, while at the same time a force of 100 men of the Devonshire Regiment, with 75 men of the 20th Madras Infantry, were making forced marches along the railway embankment from Shwebo to Kawlin, preceded by various bodies of Shwebo military police from the northern parts of the district. A force of military police 350 strong, all told, was also gathering and making its way from Ye-u and the Chindwin in the Central division towards Kawlin. These combined movements were executed with so much rapidity that on the 18th February as many as 270 Rifles were collected at Kawlin, and a detachment of 80 men was sent to re-occupy the post of Kyaukpintha, the garrison of which had been withdrawn.

During the 16th, 17th, and 18th constant fighting was going on between the enemy and the British force at Kawlin, and various encounters took place in which the rebels lost considerably. The latter began to extend their operations to the

south, where they destroyed the railway buildings at Kyungôn; to the east, where they destroyed the civil police post, Singôn, burnt various villages about Kawlin, and blocked the road from Tigyaing by stockades; and to the west, where they burnt the civil police post at Ôkkan and threatened to invade Ye-u. This last movement drew away the Central division force from Mettaung in the north-west, where it was to concentrate in the direction of Ôkkan, towards which the advance party under Captains Hutchison and Pond of the Ye-u Battalion proceeded to march.

No forward offensive movement against the enemy was made by the force at Kawlin till the afternoon of the 19th February, when Captain Keary, Commandant of the Shwebo Battalion, and Mr. Kenny, Subdivisional Officer, Tantabin, Northern Shwebo, suddenly appeared with a body of mounted military police and, waiting no longer than to ask the position of affairs, charged the enemy, swept them from the plain, and drove the remnant of them up a stockaded hill. This hill he then proceeded to assault with the aid of the Kawlin force, and after two failures the dismounted Shwebo sowars, with dogged courage and determination, succeeded in carrying it just at nightfall in a hand-to-hand attack, which left every remaining man of the enemy dead on the ground. On the following day Captain Keary and Mr. Kenny with the mounted men cleared the surrounding country of the enemy, destroying Pegôn, the rallying point for the rebels on the borders of Wuntho. On the 21st the troops arrived from Shwebo and a detachment of mounted infantry of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry under Captain Custance from Tigyaing. That evening information was received of the Sawbwa's having stockaded himself at Kyaingkwintaung on the road to Wuntho town with a large force, which the troops and the military police under command of Captain Davies, of the Devonshire Regiment, proceeded to attack next morning, the 22nd February. The stockade was in a strong position on a hill commanding the ford of the Daungyu river, about half-way between Kawlin and Wuntho, which are some 9 miles apart. The attacking force crossed the river under the fire of the enemy, the infantry pushing up the hill against the stockade, while the mounted men, under Captains Keary and Custance, kept the more level ground below. The enemy kept up a hot fire, killing and wounding a number of our men as they advanced till the stockade was carried by storm, several of the rebels falling dead within it. The rest fled down the hill, where the troopers met and pursued them, killing 50, besides wounding a large number. The ground was full of pits, which were no doubt meant as traps for cavalry. The Sawbwa's pony was found in the stockade. The same day the military police from Ye-u found the enemy strongly stockaded at the Monankyaung near Ôkkan. After an engagement lasting several hours the rebels were dislodged and driven into flight with a loss of 27 killed. Unfortunately Captain Hutchison received a severe wound, of which he died a few days after. There were besides two men dangerously wounded, six severely, and two slightly. At Kyaingkwintaung the British loss was three killed and 15 wounded.

The two actions on the 22nd practically crushed the rebellion as no stand was made anywhere afterwards. The rebels lost the flower of their fighting force, the pure Shans and others, in the engagements at and around Kawlin, and were thoroughly beaten and cowed, and this in about a week from the beginning of the outbreak. Wuntho town was occupied without opposition on the 24th February. General Wolseley, C.B., Commanding the Mandalay District, had been appointed to the Chief Military and Political charge of the operations in Wuntho, and arrived at Wuntho town on the 26th February. An advance was then made across the hills to Pinlèbu, the Sawbwa's residence, 33 miles off. A stockade on the road was skilfully turned by a party under Captain Keary and the enemy fled. The Sawbwa tried to make terms, but was required to surrender on the bare promise of his life. The mounted force was sent northwards to cut off retreat in that direction, but in the meantime the military police from the Central division had advanced on Pinlèbu rather before their time, and the Sawbwa incontinently took to flight, leaving his palace and stockade burnt behind him.

While these events were taking place in the south a column had also been organized in the north under Colonel Macgregor, D.S.O., of the 1st Burma Regiment (10th Madras Infantry), with Mr. Martini, District Superintendent of Police, as Political Assistant, and marched from Katha against the old Sawbaw in Mansi. It consisted of British Infantry, a section of a Mountain Battery, 200 Gurkhas, and a company of Karen military police. Before it advanced the military police of Katha at Kainggyi and elsewhere had had several encounters with the rebels, who had broken into the district in various places, plundering and burning villages, and had driven them off with loss. The advance party of the Northern column proceeded to Banmauk, which they took and occupied after slight resistance. This was on the 27th February, and on the 1st March a force under Lieutenant Caulfield and Mr. Prendergast, of the Karen Battalion, attacked a stockade at Kyauktalôn, about 14 miles from Banmauk, and carried it, killing nine of the enemy. The old Sawbwa is said to have had a narrow escape on this occasion. As at Kyaingkwintaung the ground was full of *trous-de-loup*, but this danger was avoided by taking a path in the rear of the stockade. In these engagements in the north our only casualties were two Karens slightly wounded and there was no more fighting after this. The Northern column advanced to Mansi to find that the old Sawbwa had taken flight. General Wolseley took a force from Wuntho to Mansi, and various parties were sent through the country, thoroughly traversing it as far as the Chindwin.

At the beginning of the outbreak the old Sawbwa sent out Bo Lè, a noted robber captain, to attack Maingkaing and Homalin, and other places on the Chindwin. Bo Lè began doing so, but fled immediately on the Chindwin military police coming against him without an effort to face them.

The remainder of the operations resolved themselves into the pursuit of the Sawbwas and Bo Lè and the traversing of Wuntho to receive the submission of the people and the surrender of arms. In order to block the flight of the Sawbwas to the north Captain O'Donnell, of the Mogaung Levy, who was settling the country of Thama north of Mogaung, with a column of British Infantry, guns, and Gurkhas, was directed to march in the direction of the Taungthônlôn hills at the northern extremity of Wuntho, where Colonel Macgregor was to meet him and co-operate. Captain O'Donnell accordingly came down by Indawgyi and advanced southwards till he met the Northern Wuntho column. General Wolseley came north and, obtaining information that the Sawbwa had taken the direction of the jade-mines, where there was also rumoured to be a gathering of Chinese and other desperadoes, organized a force, including Captain O'Donnell's column, with which he marched to the jade-mines. On the way the Kachin villages of Sana—which had committed raids about Indawgyi, had harboured Po Saw, the Mogaung outlaw, and had displayed a defiant and hostile spirit—were visited and punished, Po Saw barely making his escape.

The jade-mines were reached on the 15th April; there was no opposition and the people welcomed the force. It was determined to establish a post at the jade-mines now that we had got there, and General Wolseley therefore left Captain O'Donnell in command with four other English officers, 132 Rifles of the Mogaung Levy, and a section of the 6th Bombay Mountain Battery. The future history of the jade-mines belongs to the Bhamo district. With the establishment of this post the military operations in Wuntho may be said to close.

The Sawbwas were not found at the jade-mines, but were said to have escaped to China with Chinese assistance. This would seem to be the case so far as regards the old Sawbwa; but the younger Sawbwa and his family turned back and are believed to be now in a retreat between Mansi and the Chindwin. In the month of June he sent in an application for pardon, offering, if he or his son is reinstated, to pay an annual fine of a lakh for three years. He has been told that neither he nor his son can ever be Sawbwa of Wuntho, but that, if he surrenders, he will not be deported to India, but will have to live in some town in Lower Burma, where he can have his family with him if he likes, and that his

son will be cared for by Government. The Sawbwa has pleaded that the rebellion was the act of his father and not of himself; that when the first outbreak took place at Banmauk he was afraid he would be called upon to surrender his father, which he could not possibly do, and so he erred and joined in the fighting. The fact, however, remains that throughout the south of Wuntho, which was directly under the young Sawbwa, the preparations for hostilities were everywhere more complete and formidable than even in the old Sawbwa's country to the north. Fortunately the people of the State generally were not disposed to war, and when once the fighting corps had been broken up the whole country rapidly submitted.

A few days after the beginning of the rebellion and as soon as it became clear that the Sawbwa himself was really engaged in it, the orders of the Government of India were obtained for his deposition and a proclamation was issued declaring that he would never be given authority in Wuntho again, and tendering pardon to all who should make their submission and surrender their arms in a fortnight. There was no hesitation in accepting these terms, and from the very first the people readily came in with their arms. Although the rebels had burnt hundreds of houses, carried off hundreds of cattle, and destroyed an immense quantity of property belonging to unoffending people, no retaliatory measures whatever were taken, and, excepting the burning of a few houses at first, where there was resistance, no damage of any kind was done. The consequence of this policy was that the country quietly settled down almost immediately, and the people were both friendly and helpful to our officers and troops. The number of arms surrendered or otherwise obtained has been returned at 2,700 or 3,000. There cannot be many left, what there are being mostly in the hands of a few adherents of the Sawbwa and of professional dacoits, who will continue to be troublesome till they can be hunted down. Even the members of the Sawbwa's family, including his cousin, the Kyamaing or heir-apparent, and numerous prominent officials, have been pardoned and allowed to remain in Wuntho. Not a single man has been required to leave the district. The best of the old Wuntho officers have been given employment in the new administration of the territory. Wuntho is now held by the Katha military police battalion and by the 20th Regiment, Madras Infantry. On the west of the Mu the Ye-u battalion holds Chaungzauk.

Pending the orders of the Government of India as to the future, the administration of Wuntho is now being carried on as if it were a part of the Katha district. Mr. Fowle, Subdivisional Officer of Kawlin, accompanied General Wolseley as Political Assistant, and his successor was moved to Wuntho Town as his headquarters, Kawlin having been destroyed. Mr. Kenny was placed at Pinlèbu, and Mr. Martini was given charge at Mansi. U Pala, an old Burmese official, was appointed Myoôk and placed at Mansi; Maung Po Gyan, brother of the Shweashe Chaung Myoôk, was made Myoôk at Banmauk, where he has hereditary influence; Maung Po Tu, the head amat of the Sawbwa, was appointed Myoôk at Wuntho; and Maung Po Maung, formerly Sitkè, was appointed Myoôk at Pinlèbu. The various shwehmus, thugyis, and other local headmen were re-appointed, and the whole of Wuntho has now been distributed into circles, townships, and subdivisions.

No sooner was Kawlin relieved than arrangements were made to send a staff of Engineers into Wuntho and Katha to make roads and build posts, to extend the telegraph, and to establish postal communication. The required posts have been constructed and as much road-making has been done as the short remaining portion of the open season would allow. The road between Wuntho and Pinlèbu has been made, the road between Singôn and Wuntho has been attended to, and that between Banmauk and Mansi has been improved. The telegraph line has been carried from Kawlin to Pinlèbu through Wuntho, and in the north has been extended from Katha to Banmauk and on to Mansi. Post offices have been opened at Pinlèbu, Wuntho, and Mansi. Work on the railway is being pushed on, and there are now construction parties employed in making the line from Wuntho to the pass into Katha and from Katha

to the same pass. The railway was opened from Sagaing to Shwebo on the 1st July, and its extension onwards to Kambalu is expected to be ready for traffic about the end of the year.

Momeik.

8. The so-called Shan State of Momeik is at present administered, under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of the Ruby Mines district and of the Commissioner of the Northern Division, by Saw Maung, *ex*-Sawbwa of Nyaungywe, who was installed for five years from April 1889 as Regent during the minority of Kun Maung, the hereditary Chief. It is a Shan State in name only. Not more than 20 per cent. of the inhabitants are Shans, the remainder being Kachins, Palaungs, and Burmese. The present Sawbwa is said to be a well-meaning man, but he has entirely failed to gain either the goodwill or the respect of the people of Momeik, or to maintain a proper supervision over his subordinate officials. During the cold weather of 1889-90 extensive operations were carried out with a view to the capture of Kan Hlaing and Saw Yan Naing, and the punishment of the refractory Chins in Momeik State. The capture of Kan Hlaing and Saw Yan Naing was not effected, but their following was dispersed, and the two leaders took refuge beyond the Chinese frontier. The Momeik Sawbwa gave little or no assistance throughout. His intentions were good, but neither he nor his subordinates were able to give any trustworthy information regarding the country in which they were mostly strangers. The columns experienced considerable resistance, in consequence of which fines were inflicted on the hostile circles, while some of the headmen were deported. On the withdrawal of the columns proclamations were issued warning the people to remain quiet and to abstain from raids. They were at the same time promised that on the capture of Kan Hlaing the deported headmen would be allowed to return to their circles.

Things remained quiet up to the end of October, when the village of Yabôn, some 30 miles to the north-east of Momeik, was attacked by a combined gang of Kachins and Palaungs. Yabôn was occupied by 40 of the Sawbwa's men under one of his amats or officers. The attack was probably due in some measure to this man's bad management of the surrounding tribes, but Saw Yan Naing and the outlaws over the frontier are supposed to have had a hand in stirring up trouble. The amat and his men made a feeble resistance and soon abandoned their post and fled, giving up their arms to the people of Manpun on their way. The Sawbwa sent out a fresh force to Yabôn, but the outbreak was left to be dealt with by Mr. Daniell, Assistant Commissioner, Momeik, and the column which it had been previously arranged should spend the dry season in Eastern and Northern Momeik to finish and consolidate the work of the previous cold weather. This column, consisting of 80 military police, half mounted, started in December, Mr. Daniell, Assistant Commissioner, being the officer in political charge. He at once visited Yabôn and was successful in securing the speedy submission of Chiefs and people. The restoration of the guns and ponies taken in the attack on Yabôn was required, fines were imposed, and the turbulent Lakun Kachins were directed to move back and live among their own people. The leader of the attack, Sawsaing, Lakun Sawbwa of Yabôn, was cleverly captured by a night surprise, and the whole circle was satisfactorily settled and placed in the charge of the several local Sawbwas, who are to pay tribute and bring it in to Momeik twice a year. Meanwhile, on the 9th December, another affair had occurred, the Mohlaing Myoôk having been attacked at Etkyi by a band of 40 or 50 men, who killed and wounded several of his followers and carried off property. These men were under the protection of the Lakun Kachin Sawbwa of Kahôn, one of them being Nga Kyaw, an outlaw, and were believed to have acted on the instigation of the adherents of Saw Yan Naing and Kan Hlaing. Mr. Daniell was accordingly instructed to direct his march to Kahôn and punish this outrage as soon as possible. He sent two messengers to call in the Kahôn Sawbwa, who seized and killed one of them, the other escaping.

As it was evident that organized opposition was to be expected Mr. Daniell's party was reinforced by British Infantry, part mounted, from Bernardmyo and Shwebo, and by a company of the Mandalay military police battalion under the

Commandant, Captain Alban. No time was lost in making for Kahôn, and on the early morning of the 28th January the combined force under Major Kelsall, of the Devonshire Regiment, effected the surprise of Kahôn, where after a determined resistance five of the enemy were killed, including the Sawbwa's brother, and the Sawbwa himself and others were wounded. A private of the Devonshire Regiment was killed and a military police sepoy severely wounded in this engagement. The troops and the military police were then distributed in detachments about Kahôn, Kyutha, &c., and worked thoroughly through the country, with the result that altogether 26 of Kahôn's adherents were killed, and seven of Nga Kyaw's, including his Lieutenant Nga San Pan, besides the capture of a number of prisoners. The only further casualty on our side was a Gurkha killed and a military police sepoy wounded. Seven villages subservient to Kahôn were destroyed and the remaining villages in the Manmauk circle were forced to make their submission. The Sawbwas of the other circles of North-Eastern Momeik then came in and made their submission to Mr. Daniell.

The Tônhôn column from Bhamo had come down to co-operate with Mr. Daniell, who met it on the 6th March. The Mohlaing deportees of the previous season were taken back to their homes and the Tônhôn Sawbwa, who had never come in before, made his submission.

The Tônhôn column took the Chauktaung side of the country, while Mr. Daniell visited the circles of Maingkwin, Humai, and Shawlan. There was no further opposition, and an arrangement was made with the Humai Sawbwa for the prevention of the passage of outlaws and marauders through his country. The column returned at the end of March, and Nga Kyaw made an attack on Mabein on the night of the 30th March, killing one villager and carrying off some plunder. Mr. Daniell at once returned and pursued him, but was too late to come up with him. The best arrangements possible were made with the various Kachin and Palaung Chiefs, who will be held responsible for keeping order in their respective jurisdictions and will be required to acknowledge the authority of Momeik by the regular payment of tribute.

But the administration of Momeik can never become satisfactory until it is under direct British control. It has hitherto constituted the one very weak point along our eastern border as it is open to and forms the favourite field for the operations of Kan Hlaing and Saw Yan Naing, who come across from Chinese territory and commit depredations on our subjects. The Bhamo and Ruby Mines districts are thus left open to attack with the result that we have been forced to send annual expeditions to restore order and maintain the authority of the Sawbwa, while in the south the Bhamo district is annually disturbed and has to be annually visited by armed columns. The Sawbwa recognizes his own inability to manage the State. He has already offered to give up the extensive territory known as the Kodaung, and he is believed to be ready to resign altogether. Proposals for the future administration of Momeik as a part of the Ruby Mines District have been submitted to the Government of India.

IV.—*The outlying portions of the Bhamo district, west of the Irrawaddy.*

Mogaung.

9. The condition of the country round Mogaung at the end of last season's operations, though better than before, was still far from satisfactory. To the north was the Thama Sawbwa sullen after his punishment the year before, and still in the habit of harbouring Po Saw and other bad characters, while an uninterrupted stream of armed ruffians flowed through his territory across from China to the jade-mines laden with illicit liquor and opium. To the west of Thama was the seat of the disturbances between the India-rubber traders, evincing a state of lawlessness with which we were unable with our then available means to cope, while lesser dacoities and attacks on friendly villages round Kamaing and constant rumours of intended descents by large bodies of armed men from the jade-mines on Mogaung showed that the elements of mischief were all at hand. Passing to the neighbourhood of Lake Indawgyi, we had the Sana tribe of Kachins on our hands to punish. Apart from the fact of their having raided villages on the west side of the lake they had been harbouring the rebel Po Saw

for months past. Unfortunately there had not been sufficient time to undertake their punishment while other expeditions were being carried out. This kept the west of Mogaung in some unrest the whole of last year. Matters up the Kaukkwè were tolerably quiet. Two brutal murders north of Sinbo, supposed to have been committed by some of the Kachins at the headwaters of the Kaukkwè, took place, but with this exception there was no serious trouble. The Lèka Sawbwa still held back from coming in to the Deputy Commissioner, Bhamo, and submitting his dispute with the forest lessee to arbitration, but he was not actively hostile. The only place where a real and permanent improvement had taken place from the operations in the early part of 1889 was in the tract just west of the upper defile. The Kachins there were thoroughly subdued and they have not been troublesome since.

Such was the state of affairs at the beginning of the rains of 1890. During the rains (as was natural) there was a period of tolerable quiet. Evidences of threatened disturbance up the Kaukkwè valley, however, began to appear. The rival tribes of the Karas and Kakus began collecting with a view to a fight over some petty quarrel, while the Nanka Sawbwa had the daring to raid Segyi, taking some seven captives, whom he refused to release in spite of distinct orders. Later on the Gônga Sawbwa raided the newly founded village of Mauktan behind Mosit and destroyed it utterly. This was particularly annoying as hitherto from fear of Kachins the Shan-Burmans had never dared to penetrate inland and take up the many acres of fertile land now lying waste, and this was the first experiment of the kind that had been made.

At the end of the rains a column was formed to visit and punish the Lana Kachins, thence to strike across to Lèka at the head of Kaukkwè and arrange matters with the Sawbwa, and, proceeding downwards towards Migi or some other central spot, to establish a central depôt, whence the whole of the Kaukkwè valley could be traversed and explored.

This column started from Bhamo at the end of December with the intention of proceeding towards Sana. It was, however, delayed a considerable time at Mogaung for want of rations, and in the meantime Captain O'Donnell, the Commandant of the Mogaung Levy, received what he imagined to be trustworthy information of a gathering of some 800 Chinamen under Po Saw, collected at Thama, with the intention of attacking Mogaung after the column had left for Sana. Captain O'Donnell having asked for reinforcements a section of a mountain battery and 100 British Infantry were sent to him, and with these and 137 men of his own he started for Thama on the 15th February 1891 only to discover that though Po Saw with a few of his men might possibly have been there, the 800 Chinamen certainly were not. There is no doubt, however, that a certain number of desperadoes had come over from China ready for any enterprise that might offer. This otherwise fruitless expedition secured the submission of the Thama Sawbwa, who was induced to come in to Mogaung, but fled back to his hills the same night owing to some trickery which has not yet been fathomed. Repeated messages, threatening and conciliatory, were sent to him, but he has steadily refused to come in again. He, however, sent his stepson, and the latter was brought down to Bhamo to give him an insight into our strength and has subsequently been sent back to Thama.

While Captain O'Donnell was away in Thama the Wuntho rebellion broke out. He was therefore recalled as soon as possible—indeed he returned of his own accord on hearing the news—and ordered to proceed to Taungthônlôn and act under General Wolseley's orders. This he did, but luckily found time on his way back to deal with Sana. Sana was dealt with by two parties in the first week in April, Captain O'Donnell coming in from Taungthônlôn, while Lieutenant Wilding, with 115 men, went out direct from the Indawgyi post. The latter came across Po Saw's encampment near the village of Nunkoman and captured some of his effects. It would appear that he had not more than some 20 followers. Po Saw and his men, however, managed to effect their escape, and after burning the villages of Lana, Namkan, Namsai, and Nampu the columns returned. No resistance was offered by the Kachins themselves, but Po Saw's followers fired on the column.

On the 15th April General Wolseley reached the jade-mines. The jade season was practically over and he met with no opposition He held a durbar and his statement that the Government were going to establish a permanent post at Sunka, some 8 miles east of the jade-mines, appears to have been favourably received by the people. The Government thus having been committed to the step, Captain O'Donnell, with 132 of his men and a section of a Mountain Battery, was left to build the proposed post and garrison it during the rains. The post is under construction, but much sickness is reported among the men.

The operations in the Kaukkwè valley must next be mentioned. The Lèka Sawbwa, as has been stated, had steadily refrained from coming in and his intentions were unknown, while the unpunished raid on Segyi by the Nanka Sawbwa in October 1890 followed by the destruction of Mauktan, as mentioned above, caused a feeling of insecurity among the Shan-Burmese villages up the length of the Kaukkwè, which all but induced them to desert their villages and come down to the banks of the main river for protection. It was necessary to take early steps to re-establish our authority and in the second week in April two columns started, one proceeding up the Kaukkwè and *viâ* Nanko, and the other following the Mosit valley to Gônga. After successfully accomplishing the punishment of the Nanko Kachins by the arrest of the Sawbwa and raiders and of Gônga by the burning of the Sawbwa's residence at Taungdu and the neighbouring village of Legyagataung, whence most of those implicated in the dacoity came, the two columns met at Maingtaungwa, there receiving the submission of Sinwawa, the head of the Kwan tribe and by far the most powerful Sawbwa on the Lower Kaukkwè. The submission of Sinwawa had a marked effect on the attitude of the other tribes, and it was found possible to withdraw the 50 King's Royal Rifles, the remainder of the column (consisting of 100 Madras Infantry and 90 Devons, half mounted) proceeding directly up the Kaukkwè to deal with the Lèka Sawbwa. Owing to the lateness of the season and the difficulty of transport the column was unable to proceed further north than Kalegan near Yèpu, which is two days' journey from Lèka. The Sawbwa, however, came into the camp and brought in the lesser Sawbwas, who were engaged in the attack on Maung Bauk's elephants, and made them pay a fine. The Lèka Sawbwa, owing to difficulty of returning, as the rains were at hand, was not brought into Bhamo. The Kara and Kaku dispute was also settled by making the rival parties take oaths according to Kachin custom not to break the peace.

The general results of the operations west of the Irrawaddy may be summarized as follows. The Kaukkwè valley is quieted. Thama has been proved to be a bugbear, of whom we need have no fear in future. A permanent post has been established in the immediate neighbourhood of the jade-mines and the fabled probable inroad on Mogaung from the jade-mines is a tale of the past. Though the tract south-east of Indawgyi has not yet been thoroughly and effectively visited and possible disturbance may arise, it is doubtful whether Po Saw or the Wuntho Sawbwa will venture to cause trouble there. This part of the country will have to be further examined during the next open season.

V.—*The outlying portion of the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy.*

10. The outlying portions of the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy are occupied by Kachin tribes, who have hitherto held a semi-independent position, and of whom our knowledge is as yet very limited. During the whole of the cold season, from November to March, Lieutenant Eliott, Assistant Commissioner, and Major Hobday, of the Survey Department, with an escort of 70 Rifles, were employed in exploring our northern and north-eastern borders. They reached a point some 50 miles above the confluence and met with no active opposition, though at one point beyond Kwitu their progress was barred by the machinations of the Kwitu Sawbwa, and they had to turn back. They then made incursions into the Kachin Hills between the 'Nmaikha or eastern branch of the Irrawaddy on the north and the Taping river on the south, collecting much information about the Kachin tribes, the details of which have already been reported to the Government of India. Meanwhile other officers had been at work

among the Kachins from Namkan on the south to the Molè chaung on the north. At the close of the previous season's operations the Lana Kachins were blocking the main trade route into Namkan. All the routes leading eastward from Bhamo to Manwaing were the scenes of constant attacks on caravans; of the valley of the Molè little or nothing was known. At the commencement of the cold season of 1890-91 arrangements were made to send out a punitive column to punish and settle the whole of the tribes to the immediate east of Bhamo, who had been guilty of attacks on caravans and who had not yet been punished. It was also intended that the two tribes of Tin Paung and Lwèsaing Nanya, who had been guilty of petty dacoities and who lived to the immediate north of Sinkin, should be visited and punished, if time permitted.

The column started on the 24th December 1890 under Lieutenant Burton, of the Mogaung Levy, proceeding to visit first the hills north of the Taping and finally returning to Bhamo on the 21st May 1891 from Lana. This column did its work thoroughly: every single village that had had any case reported against it during the previous two years was visited and duly punished by fine. Disarmament was insisted on as far as possible, fines being taken preferably in guns; and the power of the Government was made evident to the Kachins as never hitherto. Owing no doubt in great measure to the operations of this column the attacks on caravans were reduced to two, one by the Kalunkong Sawbwa, the perpetrator wherof was arrested and sentenced to the evident surprise of the surrounding Kachins, while the other attack, though said to have occurred on this side of the Chinese frontier, was perpetrated by Kachins supposed to have come from across the border. One noteworthy feature in the course of these operations was the fact of the column having been on the night of the 1st March 1891 suddenly rushed by Hantôn and other Kachins owing to the sentry's carelessness, and losing two men killed and 10 wounded, including among the wounded Mr. French, Assistant Engineer. According to previous instructions Lieutenant Burton sent in for reinforcements, but the column was quite able to have held its own. One hundred men were, however, despatched under Major Smith of the Devonshire Regiment, and the villages implicated in the immediate neighbourhood were attacked and burnt. Subsequently it came to light that the Lashi tribe had been engaged in the attack, and accordingly 50 men under Major Smith went out and, in conjunction with Lieutenant Burton's column, attacked Lashi, taking many captives. The capture of the wrong-doers has had a most salutary effect on that part of the country.

Towards the close of the season a further series of operations was undertaken in the Sinkan valley in the south-east corner of the Bhamo district. The Sinkan valley had for some time been notorious as a nest of robbers, whose presence there was secretly connived at by the old Sikaw Myoôk. On his death, finding that they had no longer a protector and that inconvenient steps were being taken to bring them to justice, the bad characters of Upper and Lower Sinkan began to show renewed activity. Unfortunately the operations could not be taken in hand sufficiently early in the year owing to want of both officers and men. It was impossible to control the whole of Sinkan from the single post at Sikaw, and immunity from interference emboldened the gangs till their misdeeds culminated in the murder of the thugyi of Theinlin, a village within 10 miles of Bhamo. This state of things could not be tolerated longer and another officer was added to the district, while a company of the reserve military police battalion was temporarily lent. The commencement of the operations, however, came too late in the season, and although Captain Gastrell was successful in making some important captures, and although the progress of the operations led to the arrest of the major portion of the once notorious Bo Hlaw's gang, who were responsible for the abduction of the Bhamo Myoôk in 1889, still, owing to the advent of the rains and the general unhealthiness of the Sinkan valley, the operations had perforce to come to a close before a permanent impression had been made. The knowledge, however, gained of this section of a country hitherto little known will be valuable in the coming cold season, when it is proposed to continue and complete the work.

1184

In the course of next season's operations the Chief Commissioner hopes to make sensible progress towards bringing the whole of the Kachin tribes from the bifurcation on the north to the Shan States on the south into thorough subjection. A small tribute will be imposed and the various tribes will be made to understand that they must live in peace with their neighbours and abstain from attacking caravans passing through their country. A Subdivisional Officer has been placed at Myitkyina on the Irrawaddy and a series of strong military police posts will be established at suitable places to dominate the Kachin country. Beyond the bifurcation and to the east of the Irrawaddy it is not necessary at present to penetrate, but further west the Chief Commissioner hopes to send an expedition into the Hukong valley to join hands with Assam and visit the amber-mines. The military police in Bhamo and Mogaung are being strengthened from other battalions to enable them to take up the posts on the Irrawaddy and among the Kachin tribes, which are necessary to maintain order throughout the area to be brought under regular administration.

Manipur.

11. In the month of May 1891 a force was sent into Manipur to co-operate with columns from Assam in the operations ordered by the Government of India. In the political aspect of these operations this province has little concern, and it is therefore unnecessary to give any account of them here.

12. In bringing to a close this report on the frontier affairs of 1890-91 the Chief Commissioner desires to record his special obligations to Mr. G. D. Burgess, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Northern Division, under whose direction the operations described under Heads III, IV, and V were carried out, and of whose reports free use has been made in the foregoing paragraphs. The Chief Commissioner cannot speak too highly of the energy and good sense with which Mr. Burgess has administered his anxious and difficult charge. The Chief Commissioner's thanks are also due to Mr. George, Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo, to Mr. Daniell, Assistant Commissioner on special duty in Momeik, and to Captain Rundall, whose administration of the Northern Chin Hills showed him to be gifted with the best qualities both of a Political and of a Military Officer. Mr. Collins deserves mention for his administration of the Katha district and for his services in connection with the Wuntho outbreak. Mr. Martini, District Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Fowle, Subdivisional Officer, Kawlin, both rendered valuable service in Wuntho, and special mention has already been made of the admirable conduct of Captain Keary, of the Shwebo Military Police Battalion, whose rapid advance on Kawlin and brilliant attack on the beleaguering force had the effect of relieving the garrison and breaking the back of the rebellion. Mr. Kenny, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who was with Captain Keary, also deserves mention. The Native officers and men of the military police have behaved well in all the operations in which they have been engaged and in some cases have shown conspicuous gallantry. The names of two Native officers are being submitted to the Government of India for the Order of Merit. Finally, the Chief Commissioner desires to record his thanks to Major-General Stewart, C.B., Commanding the Burma District, to Major-General Graham, C. B., and to Brigadier-General Wolseley, C.B., for the cordial assistance which he has on all occasions received from them. General Stewart has no doubt himself brought to the notice of Government the military services of the officers and men under his command. The Chief Commissioner desires, however, to bring the services of Captains Rundall and Keary under the special notice of the Government of India.

By order,

BURMA SECRETARIAT :
The 8th August 1891.

E. S. SYMES,
Chief Secretary.

G. B. C. P. O.—No. 3090, B. S., 30-9-91—200.